

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08  
LAB-04 SIL-01 /050 W  
-----107282 010651Z /14  
R 312153Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8504

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PE  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT EXTENDS VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

REF: (A) LIMA 0798, (B) LIMA 0801

SUMMARY: THE GOP EXTENDS THE VOTER REGISTRATION AN ADDITIONAL  
10 DAYS. THE NUMBER OF PARTIES PETITIONING FOR ENROLLMENT  
BEFORE THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION INCREASES TO FIVE. WITH TWO MORE  
EXPECTED JAN 31 AND MORE PROBABLY TO COME BEFORE THE FEB 4  
DEADLINE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (JNE) ANNOUNCED JAN 30 THE  
EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR NEW VOTER REGISTRATION FROM  
JAN 31 TO FEB 10. THIS EXTENSION, MADE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES DUE TO LIMA'S MUNICIPAL LABOR PROBLEMS  
(REF A), WILL PERMIT THE REGISTRA-  
TION OF AS MANY AS 24,000 ADDITIONAL VOTERS. THE JNE ESTIMATES  
THAT BY FEB 10 A MILLION NEW VOTERS WILL BE REGISTERED, MOSTLY  
18 TO 21 YEARS OLDS, AND A TOTAL OF 5 MILLION ELECTORS WILL BE  
ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUNE 4 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY  
ELECTION.

2. THE DEADLINE OR ENROLLMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES, HOWEVER,  
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HAS NOT CHANGED (REF B). POLITICAL PARTIES OR INDEPENDENT  
GROUPS MUST SUBMIT PETITIONS WITH 40,000 SIGNATURES OF ELECTORS  
PRIOR TO FEB 4. AS OF JAN 31, FIVE PARTIES HAVE PETITIONED THE  
JNE. THESE ARE POPULAR ACTION (AP), THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF  
WORKERS AND FARMERS (FNTC OR FRENATRACA), THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT  
PART (PDC), AND, MORE RECENTLY, THE PERUVIAN DEMOCRATIC  
MOVEMENT (MDP) AND APRA.

3. THE MDP, WHICH PETITIONED JAN 28 WITH 43,600 SIGNATURES, CONSISTS OF FORMER SUPPORTERS OF EX-PRESIDENT MANUEL PRADO (1939-45 AND 1956-62). THE MDP, CONSIDERED BY MOST OBSERVERS TO HEW TO A CONSERVATION LINE IN THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM, IS LED BY JAVIER ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS, A PROMINENT LAWYER AND FORMER PRADO MINISTER.

4. APRA, WHICH HAD ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS OF SUBMITTING ITS SIGNATURES A WEEK EARLIER, FINALLY PETITIONED JAN 30 WITH 77,777 SIGNATURES. APRA PARTY LEADER RAMPEO PRIALE INDICATED THAT THIS WAS A "LUCKY NUMBER." HOWEVER, ANOTHER PARTY LEADER TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE ORIGINAL GOAL OF 200,000 SIGNATURES HAD NOT BEEN MET DUE TO ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS AND A PARTY LEADERSHIP SHAKE-UP MIGHT TAKE PLACE AS A RESULT. IF TRUE, THIS IS SURPRISING IN VIEW OF APRA'S REPUTATION FOR A STRONG ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES.

4. LIMA MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORTED JAN 31 THAT LATER THAT DAY THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP), AND THE POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY WOULD PETITION THE JNE. THE PCP IS RUMORED TO HAVE ONLY THE REQUIRED MINIMUM OF 40,000 SIGNATURES. THE PPC, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS REPORTED TO HAVE 120,000 TO 140,000 SIGNATURES, A NUMBER WHICH WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF ITS LEADER, EX-LIMA MAYOR LUIS BEDOYA REYES.

5. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A FEW MORE PARTIES WILL PETITION THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE, INCLUDING GENERAL RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA'S SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PSR). IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE LONG TALKED ABOUT "UNITED FRONT" OF VARIOUS OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO PULL ITSELF TOGETHER FOR REGISTRATION IN THE FEW DAYS LEFT BEFORE THE DEADLINE.  
SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VOTER REGISTRATION, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GOVERNMENT EXTENDS VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
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